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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA: The Military Situation

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The British Embassy in Phnom Penh has begun evacuating dependents and non-essential personnel following a Communist rocket attack that hit a French secondary school on January 18. Some French dependents reportedly are also leaving. West of Phnom Penh, the Cambodian Army's 1st Division conducted no offensive operations yesterday as it prepared for a possible Communist attack. To the north, elements of the 7th Division continued to make limited gains near Route 51 in the face of minor resistance. Southwest of Phnom Penh, patrols from the 3rd Division engaged in several scattered skirmishes. In his latest appraisal of the situation, the US Defense Attache estimates that the Cambodian Army has the means to contain Communist offensives around Phnom Penh.

Elsewhere, Army engineers reports that the temporary by-passes around

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damaged sections of Route 4 will not support heavily loaded trucks. There is no estimate as to when the highway will be sufficiently repaired to allow a resumption of regular convoy traffic. According to the press, 100 of the trucks from the larger convoy still stalled on Route 4 reached Phnom Penh yesterday.

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